

Argentina Once Made Fuel of Sheep; Now Wool Is Greatest Income Source

Mutton, Which a Few Years Ago Was Despised, Has Become a Delicacy Food and Argentine Wool Clip Is Worth Vast Sums; War Interference With Big Industry.

By
Frank G. Carpenter
(Copyright, 1915, by Frank G. Carpenter.)

Buenos Aires, Argentina, March 20.—The war in Europe is seriously affecting the wool market of Argentina. The mills of Belgium are idle and those of France are running at only a fraction of their capacity. The exports to Germany are entirely cut off, and the only markets left are England and the United States.

Before the war began France, Belgium, Germany and Austria were taking about two-thirds of the wool clip, and the government here is now asked to aid the wool growers in increasing their business with us.

The clip of this year will amount to more than 250,000,000 pounds, and the Mercado Central de Frutos is already packed with bales awaiting shipment abroad.

Largest Wool Market in the World.
The Mercado Central de Frutos is the largest wool market of the world in connection with Bahia Blanca, the great port of southern Argentina. It handles practically all of the wool grown in the republic and something like 10,000,000 pounds pass through it each year.

The market is owned by a stock company, which has a capital of \$2,000,000 in gold, and which for a number of years has been paying dividends from 12 to 15 percent. It has buildings which cover acres, and it is said to be the largest market anywhere under one roof.

The main building is of brick, with a vast roof supported by iron pillars, of which there are more than 2500. It has 1200 windows, and 50,000 cars loaded with freight come into it every year. It is situated on the banks of the Riachuelo river, surrounded by a network of railways, and at such a place that freight can come in by ship from different parts of the republic, and go out on ocean vessels to all parts of the world. The business of the market is enormous. Something like a thousand ships load and unload at

its wharves every year, and it takes care of hides, grain, skins and wool to the hundreds of millions of pounds.

Great Quantities Received.
At shearing time the wool comes in both on trains and on ships. There are not enough cars to haul the clip, and the vast market is so packed that you can hardly get through it. Its three floors are stacked with bales of dirty, greasy wool, and the cars and wagons that carry the wool from the farms and boats fill the streets. Much of the work is done with hydraulic cranes, and the arrangement is such that a great part of the clip goes from the cars and ships direct to its place in the market.

Each man's wool is in a pile by itself, and so arranged that the buyers can easily examine it. The wool is sold unwashed, it is said to lose 50 percent of its weight by being cleaned, and the exporters say that it loses the ocean better in an unwashed state.

The clip of this year contains so much grease that when it is thrust into a hand in one of the bales it came out shining as though it had dipped it in vasoline, and it had to be put on a cotton coat to save any clothes from the dirt.

Growing in Value.
The Argentine wool clip is growing in value. The quantity is not as great as it has been in the past, but the quality is steadily improving, the amount per sheep growing, and today the average fleece is one-third again as large as it was in 1880. This is due to the improvement brought about by the introduction of fine stock.

Every day or so there is an auction sale of imported wools for \$30 imported sheep, and during my stay in the country I have seen a hundreds of rams which would sell at auction for \$500 and upward and some for \$1000. The wool clip of 1885 was sold for about \$25,000,000, and since then it has

risen as high in one year as \$50,000,000. In 1912 the amount received for the wool was \$51,000,000, and altogether, during the past generation, the country has got a billion and a half dollars from its wool clip and something like \$200,000,000 from the muttons.

There were something like 400,000,000 sheep in 1873, and today the statistics show that there are 425,000,000, and the Argentine Republic has about one-sixth of the whole. The only country that has more sheep is Australia, which has 42,000,000 to Argentina's 75,000,000 or 30,000,000. The United States has 20,000,000 sheep, South Africa 22,000,000 and Great Britain and Ireland about 27,000,000. There are in all South America only about 115,000,000, of which this country has perhaps two-thirds. There are 10 sheep to every man woman and child in the country, or an average flock of 50 per family.

In Enormous Holdings.
But the sheep of Argentina are not divided up in that way. They are mostly in enormous holdings. Several men who each own 100,000 sheep, and there is a Chilean stock company at the Strait of Magellan which is said to own in the neighborhood of 2,000,000. On the Alvarado estate there are 400,000 fine Lincoln.

The Caseros family, which has a farm of over 150,000 acres, within a day's ride of Buenos Aires, has 37,000 Lincoln sheep, and the San Julian Sheep company, of Santa Cruz, has something like 60,000 lambs born every year. That estate is in a province that formed a part of old Patagonia, and there are sheep farms now in operation all the way from the Strait of Magellan to the border of Paraguay.

There are 1,500,000 sheep on that part of the island of Tierra del Fuego belonging to Argentina, and the flocks of the south are steadily growing.

Patagonia a Great Sheep Farm.
Patagonia has become a great sheep farm, although the land is so desert in places that it can carry but a few ani-

mals. The sheep eat the tough scrub and bushes, and they are found in large numbers along the slopes of the Andes and in those places where the better kinds of grass grow. Wools are now being dug even in the driest areas, and it is said that the semi-deserts of Santa Cruz can support as many as 2,000,000 sheep.

In Chabut, farther north, there is a fine grazing country at the base of the Andes, and that province supports 2,000,000 sheep. Here in Buenos Aires some of the lands are so rich that they will feed two to three sheep to the acre.

Kept in Fenced Inclosures.
Here in Buenos Aires province the sheep are kept in fenced inclosures. In the south they are herded by shepherds, and the size of the average flock is several thousand. They are watched by a shepherd on horse-back, and are allowed to graze about as they please. No artificial feeding is done.

The sheep live out of doors from one year's end to the other. There are no sheds, barns or stacks of hay in that region. The sheep wander over the morning grazing in the direction whence the wind blows, and they return in the evening to sleep about the huts of the shepherds.

It is only where the grass is plenty that the fields are fenced with wire, and the most of the animals wander about on the plains or plains. The close grazing betters the grasses, and a farm is improved by the keeping of sheep.

Came From West Indies.
The first sheep brought to Argentina came from the West Indies Islands. They were descended from a flock brought in by Columbus and other navigators to Santo Domingo. From there some were taken to Jamaica, Cuba and Porto Rico, and they thence made their way south to the Rio de la Plata. As far back as 1550 some were brought to Tucuman, in northern Argentina, and later others were driven over the Andes from Chile. The Andesians are said to have also come from the Santo Domingo flocks, which came not from Spain, but from the Canary Islands. It is true practically all of the sheep of Latin America had their origin in the Canaries.

By interbreeding for hundreds of years the native sheep have become reduced in size and their wool hard and short. They looked much like goats, and it was not until other importations were made that the flocks began to improve.

One of the men who did much to introduce fine breeds into Argentina was an American consul named Bailey, who represented us at Buenos Aires at the beginning of the last century. It was not until about the time of our civil war, however, that much attention was paid to the importation of fine stock. After that Merinos began to be imported, and a little later on came the Southdowns and others.

Mutton Once Despised, in Favor Now.
It is only recently that mutton has brought a good price in the local market. A few years ago so many sheep were so common that the buyers refused to eat mutton, and the only profit from the sheep came from the wool.

A little before that sheep were killed in great numbers without taking the trouble to shear them, the hides being allowed to rot so that the wool could be more easily picked off.

At that time the bodies were used as fuel for the brick kilns, and it is said that there are old chimneys in Buenos Aires built of bricks burned with sheep carcasses. At the beginning of the 19th century the flocks were so numerous that sheep brought at times as low as six cents apiece, and at one time they multiplied so rapidly that thousands of the older ones were driven over the rocks into the sea, and a lot of them.

At another period they were slaughtered for their tallow, a single sheep bringing as much as \$1 for the fat in it.

Sheep Flocks for Exportation.
The frigorifics are now freezing vast numbers of sheep for exportation to Europe. Some of these institutions are killing as many as 5000 a day, and a great caravans of frozen sheep and lambs is on the march across the sea to the armies of the allies. Argentina was the first country to export frozen meat to England, and the first shipments were on account of the foot and mouth disease, which kept the live cattle and sheep out of the United Kingdom.

It was not until 1883, however, that the industry was definitely established by the opening of freezing works. It proved profitable, and today there are something like ten companies, with a combined capital of many millions of dollars. The business done in frozen mutton alone amounts to \$5,000,000 or \$6,000,000 a year, and since the beginning it has brought in more than \$15,000,000.

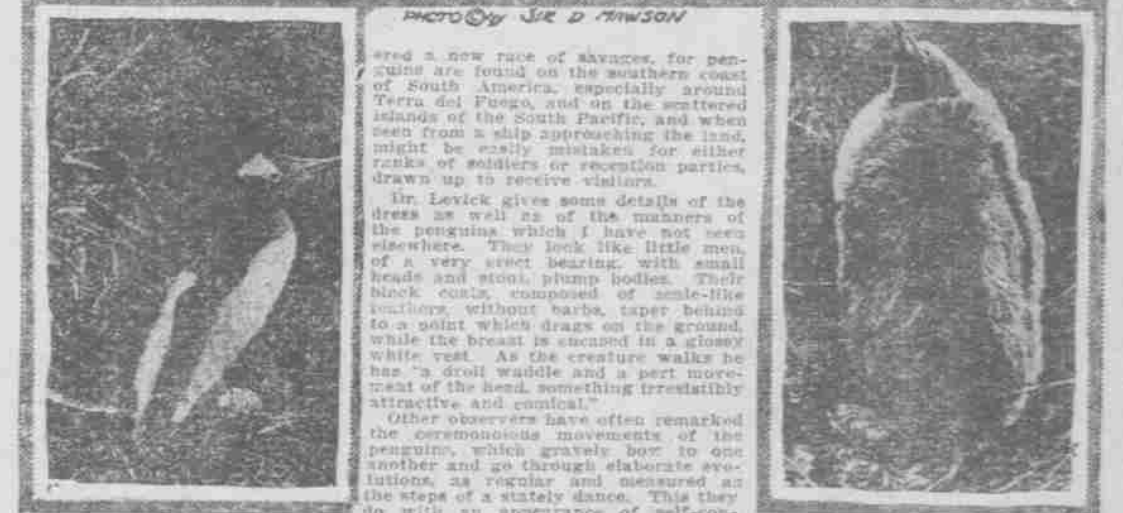
The best shipped abroad is sent in quarters. The mutton and lamb are shipped in whole carcasses, and the animals killed for the purpose number millions. The carcasses weigh from 30 to 50 pounds each, and the English prefer the medium weights. The mutton has to be thawed before selling, but it is said to be quite as good as any of the fresh mutton sold by its side in the market.

Freeze Mutton in a Day.
During my stay here I have gone

—:— Birds That Really Propose —:—

The Penguin Is Probably the Oddest-Mannered Member of the Feathered Tribes

The penguins looks like men in dress coats as they solemnly parade on the shores of Antarctic Seas.



The penguin in summer attire.

By GARRETT P. SEEVIS.

THE oldest character, as well as the oddest figure, in the bird world, is the penguin, whose principle home happens, also, to be the strangest land on the earth—the Antarctic continent. Some new facts about this queer bird have just been made known by Dr. Murray Levick, the zoologist of Captain Scott's tragic expedition to the South Pole.

Penguins have always awakened much surprise and amusement in the minds of Arctic explorers because of their astonishing resemblance, when seen at a little distance, to a company of short-legged men, attired in long, black, swallow-tail coats and snowy-white waistcoats, and strutting about or standing in dignified attitudes, as if they were guests at a formal reception. They array themselves in long lines on the beaches of rocks, march with a waddling gait, and never lose their dignity.

It is no wonder that some of the early navigators in the South Seas thought, at first glance, that they had discovered a freezing factory which has a capacity of 5000 sheep every day. When I entered the killing room the floor was covered with blood. There were 2000 sheep in the pens, and hundreds had been skinned and cleaned and hung up to cool before being put in the freezing rooms. I stopped for a moment and timed the killing. Within three minutes I saw a sheep pass from its active bleating life into a carcass, skinned and cleaned and ready to be frozen for its long voyage

through a freezing factory which has a capacity of 5000 sheep every day.

The killing was done in sight of the awaiting victims, and hundreds of sheep looked on while their brothers and sisters were butchered. Each pen had at least 50 sheep, and along the front of it on a bench as high as my knee lay rows of dying animals. Each had two great round holes in its white throat, and out of these ran the red blood into a little canal below. Some of the sheep were kicking others were feebly groaning, but I could see that the deaths were almost instantaneous. The killing is done with a long double-bladed knife.

The sheep is caught by two men, who throw it upon its back upon a bench. While they hold it, the butcher seizes it by the chin, bends its head back, and with one thrust drives the knife into its throat, cutting the jugular vein. He then goes out to the next sheep, which is ready for him, and keeps on killing sheep after sheep like a very machine. He butchers them at the rate of one or more per minute.

How Freezing Is Done.
The freezing is done in great chambers, each of which will hold 20,000 carcasses. These rooms have double walls of wood a foot thick, and their

ceilings are covered with coils of pipes through which flow ammonia and brine, which lower the temperature of the room to 30 degrees below zero. Great engines are employed to keep the pipes filled and they work day and night. The coils are covered with frost an inch thick, and when I entered the chamber it was intensely cold.

As I stood at one end of the room I could see through the frosty panes carcasses hanging from the hooks in the ceiling with their heads next the floor. They were almost ready for shipment, and, when the chief engineer, who was my guide, lifted one down to show it to me, I found that its flesh was as hard as stone and that it would stand alone. The carcass had been in the room 48 hours, and it was already perfectly hard. It weighed, I judge, 70 pounds. It was that of a sheep three years old.

Before shipping the carcasses are sewed up in fine white muslin cloths. They are then put in the cold storage chambers, where the temperature is almost as low as that of the freezing rooms, and are kept in your thought. You had only to look at the carcass and you would know it was a sheep.

The Daily Novelette
EUREKA!
"Oh, Billy Bunk!
I love to shrink—
Work!
And near their luck!"
—Metnick.

With his high Billy Bunk collar and lavender socks and all, he seemed almost too well dressed for a burglar, yet burglar was his sole thought as he passed out at midnight by the water spout that led to Berdie Wink's window, three stories up the side of the house.

"It's courting death, but I must do it," breathed Cholly Fiddlenose. "That secret must be in my possession, and another man has wasted and waxed."

And he started to clamber up the spout. Aside from the danger of slipping and falling to the ground on his perfectly parted hair, he could feel the dirt transferring itself from the spout onto his new double-breasted, two-button suit of Marjorie gray.

"This pipe hasn't been coated for a week," he grumbled as he clung up hand over hand. He could feel each of the 20 hairs of his mustache becoming gritty.

To make a long climb short and less painful, Cholly Fiddlenose had reached Berdie Wink's bedroom window. Lo, it was open a full six inches to let in the great draughts of fresh air while Berdie slept.

Once inside the room, Cholly snuffed

The penguin in his winter coat.

shortness of his legs and his waddling gait he makes long expeditions over the ice-packs and the snow-fields, it being the habit of his race to pass the breeding season far poleward, at a distance often of hundreds of miles from the sea. But when the young are ready for the long journey the whole community marches deliberately and with dignified gravity, back to the fishing grounds, along the icy shores and among the ice-packs, the young birds following with a solemnity of bearing equal to that of the adults.

Darwin tells a curious story of his encounter with a "hacker" penguin at the Falkland Islands. He had placed himself between the bird and the water to see what it would do, and this is what happened:

"It was a brave bird and until reaching the sea it regularly fought and drew me backward. Nothing less than heavy blows would have stopped him; every lurch he gained he firmly kept, standing close before me erect and determined. When thus opposed he continually rolled his head from side to side in a very odd manner."

willows are covered with coils of pipes through which flow ammonia and brine, which lower the temperature of the room to 30 degrees below zero. Great engines are employed to keep the pipes filled and they work day and night. The coils are covered with frost an inch thick, and when I entered the chamber it was intensely cold.

As I stood at one end of the room I could see through the frosty panes carcasses hanging from the hooks in the ceiling with their heads next the floor. They were almost ready for shipment, and, when the chief engineer, who was my guide, lifted one down to show it to me, I found that its flesh was as hard as stone and that it would stand alone. The carcass had been in the room 48 hours, and it was already perfectly hard. It weighed, I judge, 70 pounds. It was that of a sheep three years old.

Before shipping the carcasses are sewed up in fine white muslin cloths. They are then put in the cold storage chambers, where the temperature is almost as low as that of the freezing rooms, and are kept in your thought. You had only to look at the carcass and you would know it was a sheep.

GOOD THOUGHTS BEAR GOOD FRUIT
(Continued from page 2, this section.)

not produce actions that are time-consuming. From this standpoint this is a world of nature. Everyone works along the line of this knowledge. The puzzle is how can anyone fail to apply it to the world of his own mentality as well?

Good thoughts bear good fruit. The crop you harvest from evil thoughts cannot but be evil.

The proof of this lies in your own nature. It is from his crop of evil that the gardener learns wisdom to cultivate some wholly better harvest of fruits and flowers for the next year. Now if you will just weed the evil out of your mind and set about cultivating one set of fine ideas and ideals, you will be astonished and delighted to observe the transformation that will bring about in your life.

The use of it is this: Thought develops naturally into action; action repeats a few times grows to habit. Habit molds circumstance.

As You Think So Often Do.
Suppose you begin to think work whatever it is unimportant. You do it half-heartedly. Presently you become a lazy shirker. And you are all too likely to know into one of life's miserable failures. Failure you need never have been if success had been in your thought. You had only to think of growth and industry and advancement to win them some time.

If your actual physical garden is one growing in a pot or a farm of acres you apply to it the best of care—sunlight, fresh air, the careful use of manure, growth and careful nature of blossoms.

Is your own nature any less important than a vermin in a pot, or a plant-covered greenhouse?

Business in Jerusalem and Jaffa Is Dead; Turks Seize All Store Supplies
Jerusalem, Palestine, March 20.—Business in Jerusalem and Jaffa is dead, largely because of the shop supplies commandeered by the Turkish army.

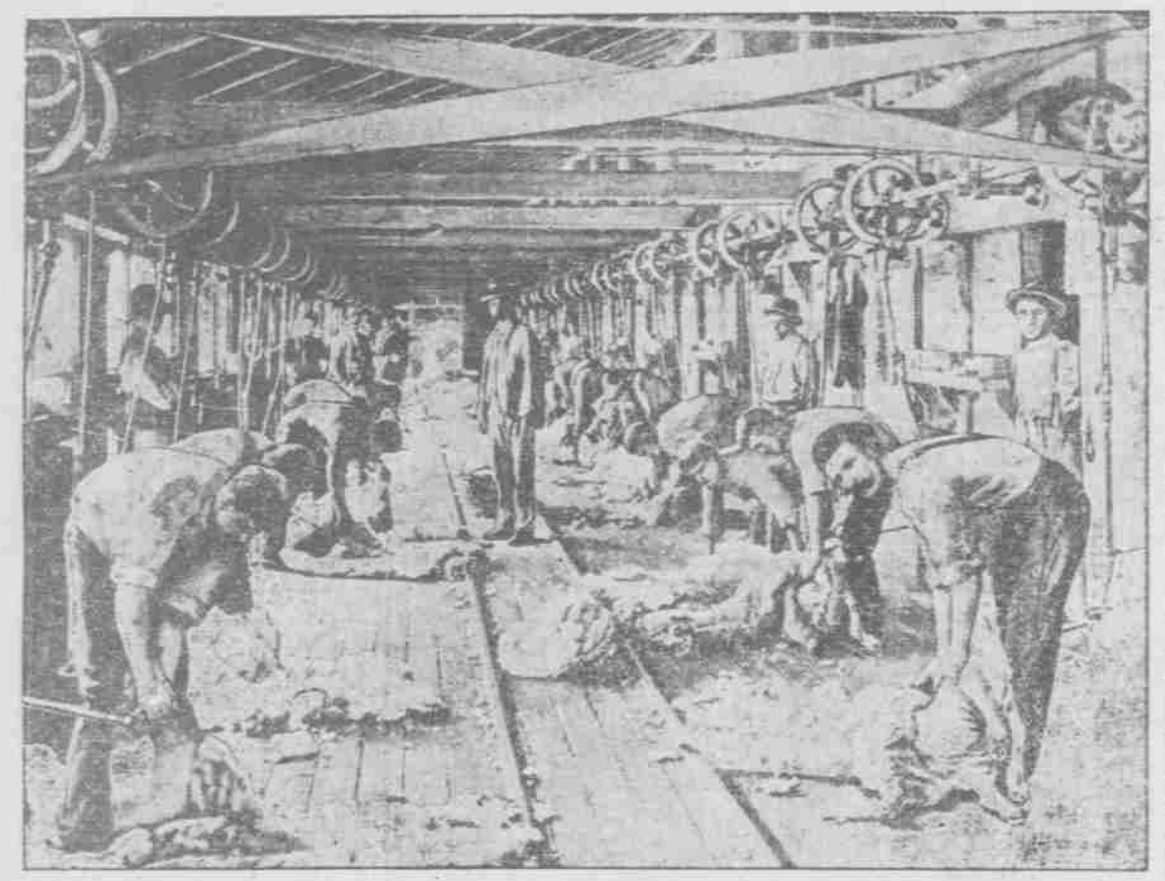
Tin cans are in especial demand, as they are used to transport water to the troops in the desert. Shop of the English, French and Russian buildings have been seized, and the beautiful French church of St. Ann has been turned into a mosque.

BEST WOOL PRODUCERS

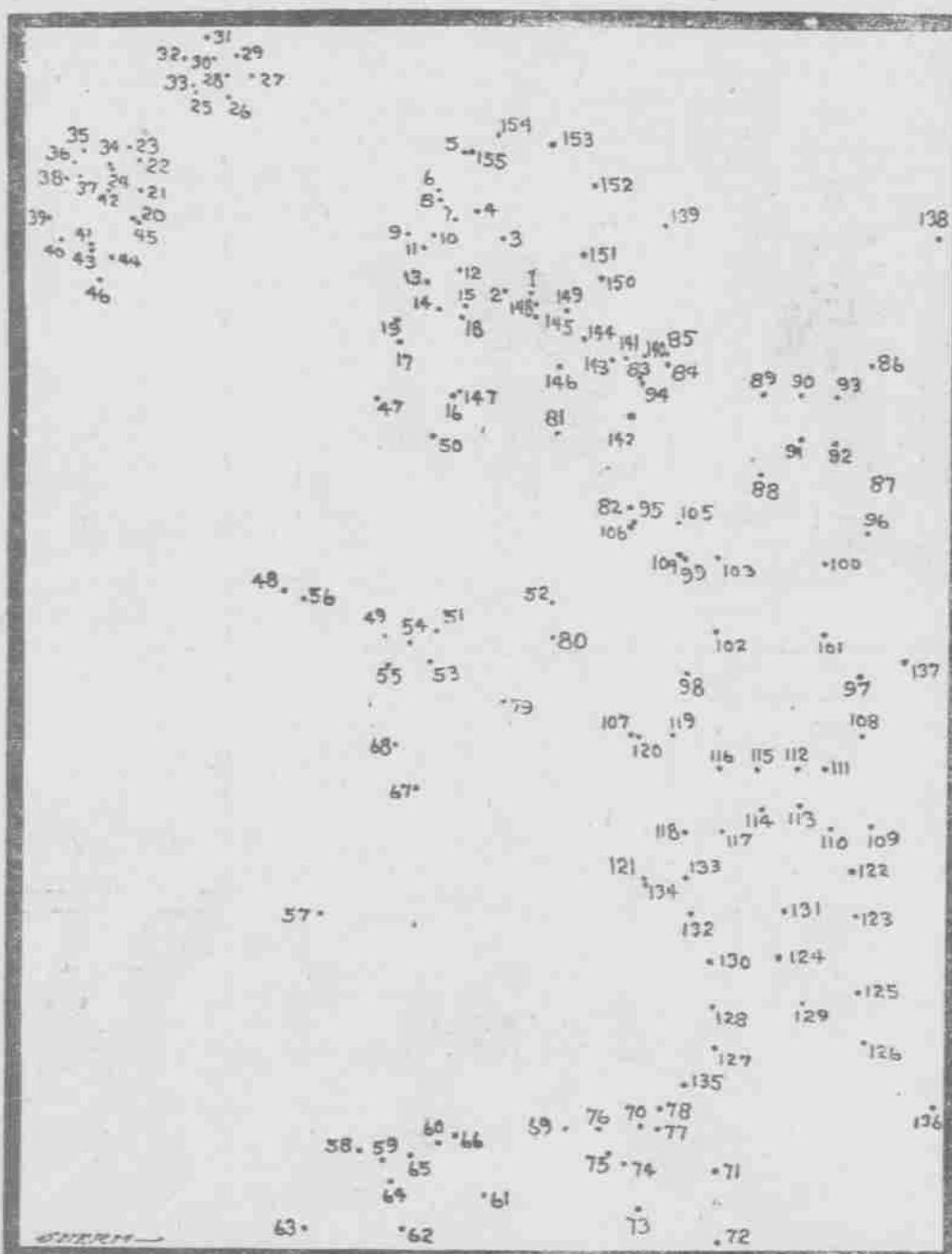


Blooded sheep worth over \$2,000 per head

SHEARING SHEEP BY MACHINERY



WHAT DID HE WRITE? FILL IT OUT



Complete the picture by drawing a line through the dots, beginning at No. 1 and taking them numerically.